

Template for Annual SCOR Working Group Reports to SCOR

1. Name of group

WG 159 DeepSeaDecade: Roadmap for a Standardised Global Approach to Deep-Sea Biology for the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

2. Activities since previous report to SCOR (e.g., virtual or in-person meetings, email discussions, special sessions). Limit 1000 words

The group held an online meeting (07 Oct 2020) to prepare the submission, in collaboration with [DOSI](#) of a global programme of deep-sea biology research - Challenger 150 - to the IOC-UNESCO. After the submission another online meeting was held (02 Feb 2021) to discuss aspects of the implementation of this programme, in particular the management structure, of which the WG159 forms the Steering Committee and the development of standards to ensure data comparability. An online townhall meeting (09 Feb 2021, >300 participants, ~30% ECs) was held to present Challenger 150 to the wider community; and the Challenger 150 was officially endorsed by the IOC-UNESCO as an [Ocean Decade programme](#). Two online meetings were held on data acquisition, processing and archiving standardization: a general workshop on how to build on the CoML work to further develop standards (14 April 2021, 34 participants) and a meeting on megafauna image data (14 Jul 2021, 30 participants).

3. Documents published since previous report to SCOR (e.g., peer-reviewed journal articles, reports, Web pages) and should be limited to publications that resulted directly from WG activities and which acknowledge SCOR support

- Howell KL, Hilario A, et al. (2020) A Blueprint for an Inclusive, Global Deep-Sea Ocean Decade Field Program. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 7 (5), 1-25, doi: 10.3389/fmars.2020.584861.
- www.challenger150.world

4. Progress toward achieving group's terms of reference. List each term of reference separately and describe progress on each one. Limit 1000 words

1. To develop a global plan for survey / sampling deep-sea ecosystems to underpin deep-sea research for the UN Decade of Ocean Science. – Plan has been discussed and published; a global programme has been endorsed by the IOC as an Ocean Decade action.
2. To agree on methods and standards for the acquisition of biological data, including the role of existing and novel technologies. – Discussed in a WG meeting and in two experts' workshops.
3. To develop habitat-specific approaches for survey / sampling the deep-sea ecosystem, that integrate the global approaches developed under ToRS 1 and 2, but allow greater specialisation. – Discussed together with ToR2

4. To integrate ToRs 1-3 with wider efforts under the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) via the Deep Ocean Observing Strategy (DOOS). – Outline provided in Howell et al. (2020)
5. To actively facilitate efforts to build capacity in developing nations for deep-sea science – no progress since last report.

5. WG activities planned for the coming year. Limit 500 words

Online meeting to further address ToR2 and ToR3
Full draft paper for TOR 5 by end of year.

6. Is the group having difficulties expected in achieving terms of reference or meeting original time schedule? If so, why, and what is being done to address the difficulties Limit 200 words

No

7. Any special comments or requests to SCOR. Limit 100 words.

No

Additional information can be submitted and will be included in the background book for the SCOR meeting at the discretion of the SCOR Executive Committee Reporter for the WG and the SCOR Secretariat.